

## Solid Waste Advisory Committee

October 21, 2008; 4:15PM  
General Services Department  
Combined Operations and Maintenance Facility  
311 North State Street

### Meeting Minutes

The meeting was convened at 4:15 PM in the Conference Room at the General Services Department Combined Operations and Maintenance Facility.

Present: Councilor Keith Nyhan, Chair, Councilor Liz Blanchard, Councilor Bill Stetson, Councilor Fred Keach, Councilor Dick Lemieux, Melanie Doiron, Jeff Myers, Paula Mattis.

Staff: Chip Chesley, Vanessa Ghiden, Pat Winn, Jim Howard

Guests: Mayor Bouley,

Absent: Greg Banks, Mike Russell, Councilor Rob Werner, Bob McManus

The meeting was convened at 4:15 PM by Councilor Nyhan.

Approval of Meeting Minutes of October 7, 2008

Minutes from October 7<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved.

### **Automated Collection Update**

Chip presented the automated collection pricing update. Pat asked members to revise the number on the spreadsheet from \$941,000 to \$645,000. Councilor Nyhan noted that automated collection is a method of collection while Pay As You Throw is a method to pay for collection and disposal. He believes that automated collection is worth investigating as a potential long term solution to contain collection costs. Councilor Stetson stated that he wanted the committee to look at automated collection hoping to have savings offset the increased solid waste costs that the City will incur next year which would provide the committee more time to evaluate Pay As You Throw further. The committee reviewed the estimated prices from Waste Management and Bestway. Mr. Myers inquired why Casella did not provide an estimate. Chip explained that staff contacted the two solid waste collection companies that the City currently has a contractual relationship, Bestway and Waste Management. After reviewing the spread sheet provided by staff and discussing the matter, the consensus of the committee was there were not sufficient savings with automated collection.

## Modified Pay As You Throw

Next the committee looked at the Modified PAYT option. Chip distributed and explained the attached spreadsheet. He explained how many tons are generated by the average household and that if each household receives a free 32 gallon (twenty pound) bag each week the revenue drops significantly. Based upon assessing data and weight slips collected at the Penacook Waste to Energy Facility, the average household places would place about 1.6 32 gallon (twenty pound) bags at the curb per week. He noted providing each household a free bag each week would reduce revenue by 66 % to 78 % based upon the analysis. This substantial reduction in revenue is counter-productive. The committee discussed whether making the second bag more expensive would save this option. There was discussion on what an average household is in contrast to a non average. The committee talked about whether reducing the cost of the bag or having two size bags would help. The committee inquired if there were other cities in the state that offer a modified program. Staff advised that they were not aware of any municipalities in New Hampshire with a modified Pay As You Throw Program. Committee members inquired if other cities offer different sizes of bags? Staff advised this is common; Dover and Exeter are two communities that provide different size bags. The committee discussed how we are asking people to change behaviors and there are going to be inconveniences.

Chip outlined an equation that showed the revenue reduction issue with the modified program,

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{The estimated revenue from PAYT from the analysis} = \$1,996,200 \\ & \underline{15000 \text{ households} \times 52 \text{ weeks per year} \times \$2.00 \text{ per bag} = \$1,560,000 - \text{free bag}} \\ & \text{Net revenue} = \$ 436,000 \end{aligned}$$

Councilor Keach asked about the business subsidy. Jim Howard explained the two ways that businesses subsidize the residential service; taxes and commercial haulers tipping fee. Councilor Lemieux asked for a spreadsheet that summarized the numbers. Mayor Bouley noted that members should have a summary of the options that the committee has discussed, including City back in business, modified program, spell out services, how it will affect families and the tax rate.

## Communications

Councilor Nyhan noted that little time left in the meeting and two items left on agenda. Communication information was handed out and the committee review 4 draft points that can help with presentation:

1. Solid waste costs alone will increase the tax rate three percent next year
2. We are throwing away money.
3. With Pay As You Throw, you pay for only what you use.

4. Every solid waste dollar currently spent on collection will be continued to be spent on solid waste collection.

The committee noted that an extensive education process will be required and moved on a discussion on the timing of education, recommendations and request for proposals. The need for multiple meetings and subcommittees were discussed.

It was agreed that the committee would continue their discussions at a continued meeting scheduled for October 28 at 4:15 PM at the COMF.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.